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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Forging Mills and Power Presses:
Production Problems, (Investments,
delivery of forge pieces from
Poland)

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. There are approximately 60 forging mills and power presses now operating in East Germany. All are sections of various larger enterprises, for the most part enterprises under the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Heavy Machine Construction. However, the production of the forges, in as far as it is destined for use outside the parent enterprise, is controlled by the Main Administration for Forges and Presses of the Ministry for Mining and Metallurgy. Eight large enterprises now possess 90% of the East German production capacity for free form forged pieces; these include Groeditz, the Thaelmannwerk Magdeburg, Liebknechtwerk Magdeburg, Leunawerk, Maxhuetten, Branderbisdorf, Grossenhain and one additional firm. Beginning with 1958, a quota system for free form forgings was introduced - such forgings had formerly been ordered as required and as available capacity permitted. The intent of the measure is to introduce a gradual specialization in the various forging mills so that each will concentrate on a particular speciality. (I) (S) (T) (L) 21 JUL 1958
2. The bulk of the equipment in East German forges and pressing mills dates from the beginning of the present century and no investment funds are available for replacements or for expansion. (A 2,000-ton press at Edelstahlwerk Beehlen is one of the few new installations in recent years.) Outdated equipment, together with shortages of alloys - molybdenum, chromium, nickel and vanadium - have resulted in imprecise work, interrupted production schedules and a high percentage of discards (between 30 and 40% in some fields). Fair allocation of available material is further complicated by internal politics. Political pressure is used by plant officials who are also ranking Party members to secure preferential deliveries to their enterprises at the expense of other firms. 28 JUL 1958
3. During January 1958, the Main Administration for Forges and Presses received a delivery of 6,000 tons of drop forge pieces from Poland. Further deliveries, however, were endangered since East Germany is unable to supply the mining machinery demanded in return. Soviet deliveries of forged pieces to East Germany are practically non-existent except for such pieces as are required by the aircraft industry. (L) (S) (T) (L) 30 JUL 1958

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